

## Claims

**[0138]**      What is claimed is:

1            1. In a communication device, a method for initiating a communication  
2 with a destination party, comprising:  
3            detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corresponding to the des-  
4            tination party;  
5            responsive to the detected user activation, displaying at least two com-  
6            munication modes for the destination party;  
7            receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication modes;  
8            and  
9            initiating communication with the destination party, using the selected  
10           communication mode.

1            2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises  
2 one selected from the group consisting of:  
3            a telephone;  
4            a cellular telephone;  
5            a pager;  
6            a personal digital assistant;  
7            a communicator;

8 a smart phone;  
9 a computer; and  
10 a handheld communication device.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected communication mode  
2 comprises one selected from the group consisting of:

3 voice telephony;  
4 voice messaging;  
5 text messaging;  
6 email; and  
7 paging.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises a  
2 display screen, the method further comprising, prior to detecting user activation  
3 of a speed-dial button:

4 displaying at least one speed-dial button comprising a displayed repre-  
5 sentation of a button;

6 and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button comprises  
7 detecting user activation of the displayed representation of a button.

1           5. The method of claim 4, wherein detecting user activation of a speed-  
2   dial button comprises detecting user selection of the speed-dial button and user  
3   initiation of a command signifying activation of the selected speed-dial button.

1           6. The method of claim 5, wherein detecting user selection of the speed-  
2   dial button comprises:

3           highlighting a first speed-dial button;

4           detecting user input indicating a direction;

5           responsive to the detected user input, highlighting a second speed-dial  
6                       button, the second speed-dial button having a position with re-  
7                       spect to the first speed-dial button, the position corresponding  
8                       to the indicated direction.

1           7. The method of claim 6, wherein detecting user input indicating a direc-  
2   tion comprises detecting user manipulation of a switch having at least two con-  
3   tact points.

1           8. The method of claim 6, wherein detecting user input indicating a direc-  
2   tion comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

3           detecting user manipulation of a switch;

4           detecting user manipulation of a dial;

5 detecting user manipulation of a jog/dial control;  
6 detecting keyboard input;  
7 detecting a button press;  
8 detecting user manipulation of a three-way switch;  
9 detecting user manipulation of a five-way switch.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein detecting user input indicating user  
2 initiation of a command signifying activation comprises at least one selected  
3 from the group consisting of:

4 detecting user manipulation of a switch;  
5 detecting user manipulation of a dial;  
6 detecting user manipulation of a jog/dial control;  
7 detecting keyboard input;  
8 detecting a button press;  
9 detecting user manipulation of a three-way switch;  
10 detecting user manipulation of a five-way switch.

1 10. The method of claim 4, wherein the communication device comprises  
2 a display screen, and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button  
3 comprises detecting contact at an area of the display screen corresponding to the  
4 speed-dial button.

1           11. The method of claim 4, wherein the communication device comprises  
2 a display screen, and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button  
3 comprises detecting a cursor position corresponding to an on-screen position of  
4 the speed-dial button and user initiation of a command signifying activation of  
5 the speed-dial button corresponding to the detected cursor position.

1           12. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises  
2 a display screen, the method further comprising, prior to detecting user activa-  
3 tion of a speed-dial button:

4           displaying a menu including at least one menu item representing a speed-  
5 dial button;

6           and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button comprises  
7 detecting user activation of the displayed menu item representing a speed-dial  
8 button.

1           13. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises  
2 a display screen, the method further comprising, prior to detecting user activa-  
3 tion of a speed-dial button:

4           displaying a scrollable list comprising at least one displayed speed-dial  
5 button;

6 and wherein detecting user activation of a speed-dial button comprises  
7 detecting user activation of the displayed speed-dial button.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting user activation of a speed-  
2 dial button comprises detecting user activation of a physical button.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the activated speed-dial button corre-  
2 sponds to a first previously stored handle representing a first communication  
3 mode for the destination party, and wherein displaying at least two communica-  
4 tion modes for the destination party comprises:

5 retrieving at least a second previously stored handle representing a sec-  
6 ond communication mode for the destination party correspond-  
7 ing to the activated speed-dial button.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein each handle comprises at least one  
2 selected from the group consisting of:

3 a telephone number;  
4 a fax number;  
5 an email address;  
6 a pager number; and  
7 an instant messaging identifier.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein:

2 displaying at least two communication modes for the destination party

3 comprises displaying a menu comprising at least two items;

4 and wherein receiving user selection of one of the displayed communica-

5 tion modes comprises receiving user selection of a menu item.

1 18. In a communication device, a method for initiating a communication

2 with a destination party, comprising:

3 detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corresponding to a first

4 previously stored handle representing a first communication

5 mode for the destination party;

6 determining whether at least a second previously stored handle exists rep-

7 resenting a second communication mode for the destination

8 party;

9 responsive to a determination that least a second previously stored handle

10 exists:

11 displaying at least two communication modes for the destina-

12 tion party, each displayed communication mode cor-

13 responding to a handle for the destination party;

14 receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication  
15 modes; and  
16 initiating communication with the destination party, using the  
17 selected communication mode; and

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
2 responsive to a determination that only one previously stored handle ex-  
3 ists:  
4 initiating communication with the destination party, using a  
5 communication mode associated with the first previ-  
6 ously stored handle.

1 20. In a communication device, a method for initiating a communication  
2 with a destination party, comprising:  
3 accepting user input activating a speed-dial button corresponding to a  
4 first previously stored handle representing a first communica-  
5 tion mode for the destination party;  
6 determining whether the user input indicates a request that alternative  
7 communication modes be displayed;  
8 responsive to the user input indicating a request that alternative commu-  
9 nication modes be displayed:



10 displaying at least two communication modes for the destina-  
11 tion party, each displayed communication mode cor-  
12 responding to a handle for the destination party;  
13 receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication  
14 modes; and  
15 initiating communication with the destination party, using the  
16 selected communication mode.

1 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
2 responsive to the user input indicating that a default communication  
3 mode be used:  
4 initiating communication with the destination party, using a de-  
5 fault communication mode associated with the first  
6 previously stored handle.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein determining whether the user input  
2 indicates a request that alternative communication modes be displayed com-  
3 prises determining whether the user has pressed a button momentarily or has  
4 held a button down for at least a predetermined length of time.

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein determining whether the user input  
2 indicates a request that alternative communication modes be displayed com-

3     prises determining whether the user has pressed a first button or has pressed a  
4     second button.

1             24. The method of claim 21, wherein determining whether the user input  
2     indicates a request that alternative communication modes be displayed com-  
3     prises determining whether the user has pressed a button once or has pressed the  
4     button twice within a predetermined length of time.

1             25. In a telephone dialing application, a method for initiating a commu-  
2     nication, comprising:

3             responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up menu com-  
4                     prising a plurality of entries corresponding to previously initi-  
5                     ated communications;

6             receiving input selecting one of the entries; and

7             responsive to the received input, initiating communication with a contact  
8                     corresponding to the selected entry.

1             26. The method of claim 25, wherein the pop-up menu further comprises  
2     at least one of:

3             a command for accessing a dial pad; and

4             a command for accessing a call log.

1           27. The method of claim 25, wherein the pop-up menu further comprises  
2   at least one entry corresponding to a received call.

1           28. The method of claim 25, wherein the pop-up menu further comprises  
2   at least one entry corresponding to a missed call.

1           29. The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
2   highlighting one of the entries in the pop-up menu;  
3   receiving input for moving the highlight; and  
4   responsive to the receiving input, highlighting another one of the entries;  
5   and wherein receiving input selecting one of the entries comprises receiv-  
6                   ing input selecting the highlighted entry.

1           30. The method of claim 25, wherein the plurality of entries correspond-  
2   ing to previously initiated communications comprise previously called telephone  
3   numbers, and wherein initiating communication comprises dialing a telephone  
4   number corresponding to the selected entry.

1           31. In a telephone dialing application, a method for initiating a commu-  
2   nication, comprising:

responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up menu comprising a plurality of entries corresponding to previously initiated communications;  
receiving input selecting one of the entries;  
displaying a sub-menu comprising alternate communication modes for the selected entry;  
receiving input selecting one of the alternate communication modes; and  
responsive to the received input, initiating communication according to the selected alternate communication mode.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the plurality of entries corresponding to previously initiated communications comprise previously called telephone numbers.

33. A user interface for a communication device having a display screen, the user interface comprising:  
a plurality of on-screen buttons, each button assignable to one of a set of functions; and  
at least one configuration screen for assigning a button to a function; wherein each button is activatable to perform the function to which it is assigned; and

8 wherein the set of functions comprises a speed dial function and at least  
9 one non-speed dial function.

1 34. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the at least one non-speed dial  
2 function comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

3 launching an application;

4 initiating an email communication to a specified recipient;

5 initiating an SMS communication to a specified recipient; and

6 accessing a web page.

1 35. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the plurality of on-screen but-  
2 tons are organized into a plurality of banks, each comprising at least one button,  
3 and wherein the user interface further comprises controls for navigating from  
4 bank to bank.

1 36. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the user interface is navigable  
2 via a switch comprising at least two direction controls and an activation switch.

1 37. The user interface of claim 33, wherein the user interface is navigable  
2 via a switch comprising at least four direction controls and an activation switch.

1           38. The user interface of claim 33, wherein each button comprises a visual  
2 indicator of the type of function associated with the button, wherein the visual  
3 indicator comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of:

4           a color;

5           an icon;

6           a text label;

7           a pop-up label;

8           a shape; and

9           an outline.

1           39. In a handheld communication device, a method for displaying pres-  
2 ence information, comprising:

3           displaying an on-screen button for contacting an individual via a commu-  
4 nication mechanism;

5           retrieving presence information for the individual; and

6           concurrently with displaying the on-screen button, displaying a presence  
7 information indicator for the individual.

1           40. The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information  
2 indicator comprises displaying the indicator within the on-screen button.

1           41. The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information  
2 indicator comprises displaying the indicator adjacent to the on-screen button.

1           42. The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information  
2 indicator comprises displaying the on-screen button using a color representing  
3 the presence information.

1           43. The method of claim 39, wherein displaying the presence information  
2 indicator comprises displaying at least one selected from the group consisting of:  
3           an icon;  
4           a text label; and  
5           a speed-dial button.

1           44. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information  
2 comprises determining whether the individual is available to receive a commu-  
3 nication via the communication mechanism.

1           45. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information  
2 comprises determining whether the individual is online.

1           46. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information  
2 comprises determining whether the individual is on the phone.

1           47. The method of claim 39, wherein retrieving the presence information  
2 comprises determining whether the individual has specified a presence state.

1           48. In a handheld communication device, a method for displaying pres-  
2 ence information, comprising:  
3           displaying a directory entry for an individual;  
4           retrieving presence information for the individual; and  
5           concurrently with displaying the directory entry, displaying a presence in-  
6           formation indicator for the individual.

1           49. A computer program product for initiating a communication between  
2 a communication device and a destination party, comprising:  
3           a computer-readable medium; and  
4           computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:  
5           detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corresponding to  
6           the destination party;  
7           responsive to the detected user activation, displaying at least two  
8           communication modes for the destination party;  
9           receiving user selection of one of the displayed communication  
10          modes; and



11 initiating communication with the destination party, using the se-  
12 lected communication mode.

1 50. A computer program product for initiating a communication from  
2 within a telephone dialing application, comprising:  
3 a computer-readable medium; and  
4 computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:  
5 responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up menu  
6 comprising a plurality of entries corresponding to previ-  
7 ously initiated communications;  
8 receiving input selecting one of the entries; and  
9 responsive to the received input, initiating communication with a  
10 contact corresponding to the selected entry.

1 51. A communication device for communicating with a destination party,  
2 comprising:  
3 an input device, for detecting user activation of a speed-dial button corre-  
4 sponding to the destination party;  
5 a display, coupled to the input device, for, responsive to the detected user  
6 activation, displaying at least two communication modes for the  
7 destination party; and

8 a communication module, coupled to the input device, for initiating  
9 communication with the destination party, using a selected  
10 communication mode;  
11 wherein the input device receives user selection of one of the displayed  
12 communication modes.

1 52. A communication device for initiating a communication from within  
2 a telephone dialing application, comprising:

3 a display for, responsive to an activation command, displaying a pop-up  
4 menu comprising a plurality of entries corresponding to previ-  
5 ously initiated communications;

6 an input device, coupled to the display, for receiving input selecting one  
7 of the entries; and

8 a communication module, coupled to the input device, for, responsive to  
9 the received input, initiating communication with a contact  
10 corresponding to the selected entry.

1 53. A handheld communication device for displaying presence informa-  
2 tion, comprising:

3 a display for displaying at least one of:

4 an on-screen button for contacting an individual via a communica-  
5 tion mechanism; and  
6 a directory entry for an individual; and  
7 a presence retrieval module, coupled to the display, for retrieving pres-  
8 ence information for the individual;  
9 wherein, concurrently with displaying the on-screen button, the display  
10 displays a presence information indicator for the individual.